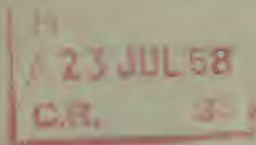


*Zilmy*  
BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

**THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

AND

**THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

**For the year 1957**

**R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.**

*Medical Officer of Health.*

**R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.**

*Public Health Inspector*

# Boldon Urban District Council, 1957.

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*Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. GIBSON, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. A. SIMPSON.

COUN. T. BROWN.

COUN. L. HANNAH.

„ J. J. EGGLISHAW.

„ D.S. Hewit

„ N. Patterson

„ O. CLARK.

„ JOS. W. SHAW.

„ J. R. PEARS.

„ J. TATE.

„ R. McDARMONT.

*Chairman of the Health Committee :*

COUNCILLOR M. HANNAH.

*Chairman of the Housing Committee :*

COUNCILLOR S. Robinson

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## HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

EAST BOLDON.

### Officials.

*Medical Officer of Health :* R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S.,  
D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.

*Public Health Inspector :* R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.A.P.H.I.,  
A.M.I.P.H.E.

*Clerk to the Health Department :* MISS L. SPOUR.

## BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Baldon Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I hereby submit my Seventeenth Annual Report of the Health Department, on the health and sanitary conditions of the district, together with the report of the Public Health Inspector.

The following are the main features of the Vital Statistics for the year, 1957.

### POPULATION.

The Registrar General estimates the total population for the Boldon Urban District to be 18,960 for mid-year 1957, this figure shows an increase of 570 compared with 1956.

### BIRTH RATE.

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population for 1957, is 20.2 compared with 17.9 for 1956. The figure given by the Registrar General for England and Wales for 1957 is 16.1.

The Still-Birth Rate for this district is 0.3. The number of Still-Births in the area was .7.

### STANDARDISED DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate for 1957 is 12.1 per 1,000 of the population, a decrease of 0.2 on last year's figure. The Death Rate for England and Wales for 1957 given by the Registrar General is 11.5. The total number of deaths in the Urban District were 231, an increase of 11. compared with last year's figure which was 220.

### NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION.

The number of Births in excess of deaths in 1957, was 152.

### INFANT MORTALITY.

The Death rate of all infants under one year of age, per 1,000 live births is 31.9 for 1957, this shows an increase of 22.8 on the figure given for 1956. The figure given by the Registrar General for England and Wales for this year is 23.0.

A review of the Statistics over the past years show the present day population in this area to be the highest for 20 years.

Visits were made to several cases of aged and incapable persons in the district.

Posters were distributed throughout the district to remind the population of the importance of immunisation against Diphtheria. Tuberculosis posters have also been displayed, stressing the importance of early diagnosis. During the year, sixteen cases were notified as compared to twenty-three in 1956.

### POLIOMYELITIS.

One case of this disease was notified during the year, in the month of November. It was confirmed, and was of a paralytic type.

### OLD AGE PENSIONERS SURVEY.

The survey of "The Effects of Social Problems on the Life of the Old Age Pensioners" was completed this Spring. Salient facts emerging from the study were :—

1,000 persons were seen ; over 100 blood examinations were made ; the ages were between 62 and 97 ; females were overweight in the majority together with microcytic anaemia and many with sub-thyroidism ; melancholy was solely a male finding and almost always due to the death of the partner ; lone females were able to cope much better than males on their own ; only 63 attended an Over 60's Club ; males were mostly spare built and their Haemoglobin 12% or so above females, those eating a low percentage of protein (37%) mostly females showed a lowered red cell count ; fats eaten were above the average and may be the cause of atheroma and its sequel ; carbohydrate intake was above the average and consisted mainly of potatoes and bread ; in nearly every instance their diet was dull,

monotonous and lacking on flavour ; none were able to afford new clothes of a major type ; those without free coal found the severe winter made serious inroad in their pension ; 22 men out of 40 had a Haemoglobin below 90% and 53 females out of 60 showed in 88% the Haemoglobin percentage below 90% ; females gave the majority of protein bought to the males, with result that the latter revealed a higher index of Haemoglobin ; the 1,000 Diet Sheets were divided into income, amount of food purchased per week, the cost, amount of protein, calories and fats, calorific value of each, animal vegetable ratio, amount spent on other necessities and the balance left over for clothes, etc. ; some cases revealed less than 1/- was left for materials ; females attended places of worship more frequently than males.

The findings of the survey was published in some half dozen journals and requests for reprints were forwarded to many foreign countries.

Towards the end of the year, another survey on " Comfort and Safety for the Aged Living Alone " was begun.

In general the health of the population of the district is extremely good, and there is no particular point other than that mentioned above, to which I have to draw the Council's attention.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support received from the Members of the Council at all times, and the assistance given by the Council staff.

REGINALD C. F. SMITH,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*Health Department,*

*May, 1958.*



### BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident population for mid-year 1957 is 18,960.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT.

The following table shows the extent of unemployment in the district :—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
31st December, 1957	37	26	63

The number of unemployed for last year was :—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
31st December, 1956	34	19	53

#### VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1957.

##### Births and Birth Rates.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
LIVE BIRTHS .....	198	185	383
Legitimate .....	194	180	374
Illegitimate .....	4	5	9

The Crude BIRTH RATE per thousand of the estimated population is 20.3.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
STILL BIRTHS .....	4	7	11
Legitimate .....	4	7	11
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....

The STILL BIRTH RATE of the estimated population is 0.3.

##### Deaths and Death Rate.

During 1957, there were 231 Deaths registered as having occurred within the district, namely :—

128 males, and 103 females.

The CRUDE DEATH RATE of the estimated population is 12.1.

The following table shows the variation in the Birth and Death Rates, and the increase in population during the preceding four years, as compared with 1957.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Death Rate.</i>	
1953	17,440	20.1	11.02	} Standardised Death Rate.
1954	17,600	18.8	11.2	
1955	18,020	16.1	11.2	
1956	18,390	17.9	11.9	
1957	18,960	20.2	12.1	

### Comparability Factor.

The Registrar General's figures for deaths include those of members of the armed forces who are stationed in the area. The population figures given are home populations (i.e.) including members of the armed forces stationed in the area). Area comparability factors for births and for deaths, allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas are Births 0.94, Deaths, 1.13, these may be used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas.

### Infantile Mortality.

#### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate .....	4	7	11
Illegitimate .....	1	.....	1

The Causes of Death were :—

Prematurity .....	5
Congenital heart disease .....	2
Fulminating Broncho Pneumonia.....	1
Pulmonary Collapse .....	1
Pulmonary Oedema .....	1
Inhalation of vomitted material .....	1
Asphyxia .....	1

The Death Rate for all Infants per 1,000 Live Births is 31.9.

The following table shows the Infantile Mortality Rate for all infants per 1,000 Live Births in 1957, as compared with the preceding 4 years.

### INFANTILE MORTALITY PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>
1953	40.0
1954	30.2
1955	28.8
1956	9.1
1957	31.9

The Population, Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1957 are shown below for comparison.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Population.</i>	<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Standardised Death Rate.</i>	<i>Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.</i>
1953.....	17,440	20.1	11.02	40.0
1954.....	17,600	18.8	11.2	30.2
1955.....	18,020	16.1	11.2	28.8
1956.....	18,390	17.9	11.9	9.1
1957.....	18,960	20.2	12.1	31.9

### DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

No deaths were notified as being due to puerperal causes.

### DISTRICT DURING 1957.

The causes of all deaths in the district during 1957 of males and females, are shown in the following table :—

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	2	1	3
2. Tuberculosis, other .....	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease .....	1	0	1
4. Whooping Cough .....	0	0	0
5. Diphtheria .....	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal infection .....	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .....	0	0	0
8. Measles .....	0	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	0	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	5	9



<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
11. Malignant neoplasm, Lung, bronchus .....	5	1	6
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	0	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	0	0	0
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	6	8	14
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	2	0	2
16. Diabetes .....	0	2	2
17. Vascular Lesions of nervous system .....	26	23	49
18. Coronary disease angina .....	30	19	49
19. Hypertension with heart disease	0	2	2
20. Other heart disease .....	9	10	19
21. Other circulatory disease .....	4	5	9
22. Influenza .....	1	0	1
23. Pneumonia .....	5	3	8
24. Bronchitis .....	6	2	8
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .....	3	0	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .....	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	6	0	6
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations .....	2	3	5
31. Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	10	10	20
33. Motor Vehicle accidents .....	2	0	2
34. All other accidents .....	1	4	5
35. Suicide .....	2	0	2
26. Homicide and operations of War	0	0	0
<hr/>			
All causes .....	128	103	231
<hr/>			

A comparison of this table with last years, shows a decrease in deaths from Bronchitis, Tuberculosis, Cancer, Heart Disease, Congenital Malformations, Diabetes, and an increase is shown in deaths from vascular Lesions, and Accidents.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA 1957.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological Examination of sputa and throat swabs from general practitioners are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory, Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 5, and at the Public Health Laboratory, Hylton Road, Sunderland. Results and numbers of bacteriological examinations for the year 1957, are as follows :—

<i>For Tubercle.</i>		<i>For Diphtheria.</i>	
Positive .....	1	Negative .....	0
Negative .....	0	.....	
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	0		0
	<hr/>		<hr/>

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Cars or ambulances required for the transport of patients are ordered by the Doctor, Midwife, Dentist or Nurse or covered by a production of a medical certificate.

The principle ambulance station for the area is 1 St. John's Avenue, Hebburn, telephone Hebburn 832157.

### VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATION.

All information regarding the above is obtainable through the County Council who have a scheme in operation whereby the parents of children who have reached the age of eight months are sent an offer of Immunization, together with information as to where it can be obtained and form of consent. If no record of immunization is received by the County Health Department before the child attains its first birthday a reminder is sent in the form of a birthday greeting card, which also contains information regarding immunization. Contact is again made when the child

reaches the age of four years nine months. Vaccination also comes under the Durham County Council, information and form of consent is sent to the parents of children who have reached the age of three months.

The inhabitants are provided with a Queen's Nurse, District Nurse and two Health Visitors; the Health visitors are responsible for different parts of the area under the control of the Durham County Council.

#### DOMESTIC HELP.

Home Helps are provided for necessary cases by the County Council Home Help Service.

#### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

A Clinic for children under five years of age is held at the Primitive Methodist Hall, Hedworth Lane, Boldon Colliery, once a week (Tuesdays) under the supervision of Durham County Council there is also a Clinic and Welfare Centre, held at the Wesleyan Hall, North Guards, Whitburn alternate Thursdays.

#### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES CASES.

Arrangements made through Sunderland Hospital Management Committee for cases of Infectious Diseases where necessary, to be removed to the Sunderland Hospital for Infectious Diseases is still in operation.

#### WELFARE AND CARE OF THE AGED SICK AND MENTALLY UNSTABLE PERSONS.

During the year I visited several premises in which the inhabitants were old and unable to look after themselves properly, and also visited the homes of some mentally unstable persons.

Several other cases were visited by the Public Health Inspector in the course of his duties.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1957 was 400, this figure excludes Tuberculosis and shows an increase of 349 as compared with 1956.

MEASLES accounted for 341 of the cases and showed an increase of 339 on last year's figures. There were 32 Whooping Cough cases, 6 less than last year.

DIPHTHERIA. No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. 153 Records have been received of Immunizations against Diphtheria this year a decrease of 56 as compared with last year.

SCARLET FEVER. 6 Notifications were received, an increase of 5 compared with the previous year. The cases being of a mild nature were capable of being nursed at home.

POLIOMYELITIS. 1 Case of Poliomyelitis was officially notified, which was confirmed. It was paralytic.

FOOD POISONING. No case occurred in the district.

TUBERCULOSIS. 14 Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during 1957, and there were 3 non-pulmonary tuberculosis cases. 2 Deaths occurred during the year.

Disinfection of premises, bedding and clothing, as usual, is carried out by our staff where there is a case of Diphtheria, and also for Scarlet Fever, on the termination of the period of isolation where the patient is nursed at home. Special forms are issued for the doctor in charge to sign when he considers the premises are ready for disinfection.

Disinfections are also carried out at the houses where there has been a death or removal of a person suffering from Tuberculosis.

Visits are made to all notified cases of important infectious diseases, the history of each case taken, and investigations made of all possible source of infection,

and where possible the premises and infectious articles are disinfected at the same time.

Diphtheria Prophylactic for immunizing against Diphtheria continues to be kept in the Health Department for the issue to local doctors. Diphtheria Antitoxin is available from Chemists and Infectious Diseases Hospitals.

Bottles of Disinfectant are issued, as usual, from the Health Department on receipt of a Doctor's note or Health Visitor's slip.

The number of notifications of the chief infectious diseases during the quinquennium preceding 1957, is shewn thus :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.		Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Food Poisoning	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio-myelitis	Paratyphoid	Dysentery
Year.	Population.													
1952	17,150	.....	.....	17	19	1	1	5	.....	85	57	1	.....	3
1953	17,440	1	1	3	16	3	.....	3	.....	88	31	1	.....	3
1954	17,600	.....	.....	19	16	3	.....	4	1	188	21	5	.....	.....
1955	18,020	.....	.....	1	5	2	.....	1	1	146	38	4	3	3
1956	18,390	.....	.....	1	18	5	.....	6	.....	2	38	3	.....	.....
1957	18,960	.....	.....	6	14	2	.....	5	1	341	32	1	.....	14

The following table shows the age incidence of each of the infectious diseases.



# CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1967.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.															Total Cases notified in each Ward.				
AT AGES—YEARS.																			
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all ages	Under one year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 upwards	Whitburn	Whitburn Coll.	East Boldon	West Boldon	Boldon Colliery	Cleaton
Scarlet Fever	6				3	1	2							2	2	13		5	
Whooping Cough	32	4	7	2	3	14	2												
Diphtheria																			
Measles	341	6	56	40	45	66	125	1		1		1		44	19	50	59	114	55
Pneumonia	5		3				1					1			1	1		1	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1																	
Acute Encephalitis																			
Dysentery	14	1	4	2	4	2	1												14
Ophthalmia Neonatorum										1									
Puerperal Pyrexia	1																		
Smallpox																			
Paratyphoid																		1	
Enteric or Typhoid																			
Food Poisoning																			
Erysipelas																			
Chicken Pox																			
Measles																			
Cholera																			
Typhus Fever																			
Total	400	12	70	44	55	83	131	1		2		2		50	32	64	59	123	72

# TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year, 16 cases of Tuberculosis were notified. 14 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 2 deaths occurred from Tuberculosis.

## NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1957.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0-1 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1-5 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
5-15 .....	1	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
15-25 .....	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
25-35 .....	.....	1	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....
35-45 .....	3	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
45-55 .....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
55-65 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
65 and upwards .....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Totals .....	9	5	.....	2	1	1	.....	.....

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.**

*To the Chairman and Members  
of the Health Committee.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the year 1957, several acts of Parliament came into operation, and needed a great deal of consideration to assess the changes in procedure, and the new measures which should be taken.

A regional committee with district committees was formed to co-ordinate work under the Clean Air Act and this in the early stages involved attendance at a considerable number of meetings.

The Rent Act 1957, came into force in July. This has not up to the present time involved much additional work in this district, but I find it to be an extremely complicated and long drawn out way of securing the repair of houses and permitting an increase in rent.

The Housing Act, 1957, came into force in September, and is a consolidation of the previous Acts dealing with this subject. Unfortunately, the opportunity of revising the standard of fitness was not taken, and many houses which are outdated can only be dealt with when the cost of repair is uneconomic.

In general, the district maintains its high standard of hygiene and freedom from serious nuisances. The public and tradespeople are almost without exception very willing to accept advice and to ask for assistance, and in general a friendly atmosphere prevails.

I wish to thank the members of the Council for the support they have given me at all times, the departments Clerk Miss Spour, and the whole of the Council's staff for their co-operation during the year.

R. W. ARMSTRONG,  
*Public Health Inspector.*

## HOUSING.

During the year, two clearance orders were made and were approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in December. Demolition Orders were served in respect of a considerable number of individual unfit houses.

As several houses are now nearing completion it is expected that the first few months of 1958, will see a considerable change in the number of families rehoused and the houses demolished. During the year, only one house was demolished, this being uninhabited.

No further progress could be made with the clearance of unfit houses in the Whitburn areas as the building of new houses could not be commenced until the improvement of the sewerage arrangements was under way. At the end of the year, a start had been made on a site for new houses, and it is hoped that clearance orders will be made in the near future. My hope that in the revision and consolidation of the Housing Acts opportunity would be taken to revise the standard of unfitness did not materialize. In this district, there are a considerable number of properties which whilst not unfit, according to the definition are so outdated, and so expensive in maintenance that they are uneconomic. I would like to see the standard suggested by the Housing Advisory Committee in 1947 adopted.

Could Local Authorities not be given the power to require that property with a possible life of more than 15 years, and which in their opinion is suitable for the purpose, be modernized to present day standards?

Lastly, has the time not arrived when the standards for overcrowding should have been revised. It is shameful that in these days people are expected to use their living rooms for sleeping purposes. The standard should be on bedroom accommodation only.

A total of 208 houses were inspected and 341 visits made in conjunction with housing conditions as follows :

### UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of houses inspected.....	148
Number of visits made .....	270

## UNDER HOUSING ACTS.

Number of houses inspected .....	60
Number of visits made.....	71
Cases of overcrowding investigated.....	3
Number of new houses built and occupied during the year.....	167
Total number of visits made in connection with the above .....	341
Total number of houses closed voluntarily by the owner.....	Nil.
Number of houses unfit for human habitation, in respect of which an undertaking was given for repair by owner .....	Nil.
Number of houses found to require repair under the Public Health Acts .....	22
Number of houses found to require repair under the Housing Act .....	8
Number of houses repaired under the Public Health Act after formal notices by the Local Authority .....	12
Number of houses repaired under the Housing Act after formal notices by the Local Authority .....	Nil.
Number of houses repaired under the Public Health Act as a result of informal action.....	18
Number of houses repaired under the Housing Act as a result of informal action.....	18
Houses at which other matters were remedied under the Public Health Act.....	6
Total number of defects remedied.....	68

## SQUATTERS CAMPS.

The four families residing in Army huts were provided with new accommodation within the first two weeks of 1958 and the camp will be returned to the entire control of the War Department.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Five sites in the district are licensed for the accommodation of caravans. The Council in 1956 made new conditions for the issue of licenses and these have resulted in most of the dilapidated vehicles and structures being removed. Old buses, huts, etc., have been demolished and site owners are required to provide adequate sanitary accommodation for which they are



responsible, refuse bins and disposal, and the keeping of the site in a tidy and well ordered condition are also their responsibility. The owners of sites have also agreed that no permanent residence shall be permitted; the sites being used for holiday and pleasure purposes only, and this provision seems to be effective in reserving a good type of camp user.

#### DIRTY AND VERMINOUS PREMISES AND PERSONS.

Nine visits were made in connection with these matters and twenty-six houses were sprayed to destroy vermin and to disinfect, whilst dirty persons of whom they are very few, were by constant visits and persuasion in most cases improved.

#### WATER SUPPLIES.

The district is principally supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, and one house secures its supplies from a shallow well.

#### ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY.

(1) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year 1957.

(2) Bacteriological examinations were made during the year from the various deep wells and other sources which constitute the supply, also from reservoirs and consumers' taps and the following results were obtained :

	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Neg. in 100ml</i>	<i>Coliform Percentages.</i>		
			<i>Pos. in 100ml</i>	<i>Pos. in 10 ml</i>	<i>Pos. in 1 ml</i>
Wells & Other Sources	225	89.7	7.6	2.7	Nil
Reser- voirs	99	88.9	11.1	Nil	Nil
Taps	79	97.5	2.5	Nil	Nil

(3) The water has no detectable plumbo-solvent action.

(4) The supply is chlorinated and no contamination has taken place.

(5) (a) There are 6,093 domestic premises connected to the Company's supply mains in the Boldon U.D.C. area.

(b) There are no standpipes in the area.

TYPICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY.	<i>Parts per million</i>
Total solids .....	450
Suspended Solids .....	Nil
Total Hardness .....	308
Permanent Hardness .....	69
Temporary Hardness .....	239
Calcium Oxide .....	101
Magnesium Oxide .....	51
Sulphur Trioxide .....	90
Chloride.....	42
Free Chloride .....	trace
Nitrogen as Nitrates.....	2
Dissolved Oxygen .....	8.3
Free Carbon Dioxide .....	9.5
Iron .....	Nil.
Manganese .....	Nil.
Silica .....	7

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

5,986 Yards of drains were examined during the year nearly all being at new dwellings built in the area.

The work is generally good standard, and mostly of standard salt glazed pipes. A small amount of work was carried out with pitch fibre pipes and these have been found to be satisfactory in every way.

Towards the end of the year, a scheme for the improvement of the sewerage of Whitburn was commenced and is making good progress.

All the sewage is discharged into tidal waters on the coast or in the River Tyne in a crude state. During the year one complaint was received about sewage fouling

the beach at Whitburn. This took place at the time of an on-shore wind and an incoming tide.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

<i>Type of Closet.</i>	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Ash Closets .....	64	59	58	57	57
Water Closets .....	6,168	6,353	6,502	6,760	6,927
Chemical Closets	28	28	28	28	28

One Ash Closet has been demolished.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

A number of visits were made to ensure that water courses were not being fouled. The owners of a pig fattening establishment closed down after representations had been made by the Rivers Pollution Authorities and myself about the gross contamination of a stream by effluent from his premises. A complaint of the flooding of a cellar due to an obstructed water course showed that the ditch around the complainants land was badly overgrown and choked, and he was advised to have it cleansed and regraded.

#### SCHOOLS.

No complaints have been received during the year about sanitary conditions in schools, and the water supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company is satisfactory.

It has not been necessary to take any action in respect of infectious disease amongst school children.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of household refuse is carried out by direct labour under the control of the Surveyor in a satisfactory manner. The refuse is disposed of by tipping into disused clay pits and other sites within the urban district, the ground afterwards being levelled and used for agricultural purposes.

The difficulty of securing sites for such tips is getting worse year by year, and at the present time the Council are negotiating for a site outside the district boundary as the present sites will soon be fully made up.

### PIG STYES.

There are a number of premises in the area used for breeding or fattening of pigs for bacon and pork. It seems to me unfortunate that the construction of buildings for such purposes are not subject to any planning control, some of these premises erected by amateur labour are in every way detrimental to the area. Fortunately, they are nearly all far enough from dwelling houses to avoid complaint.

The practice of persons rearing one or two pigs for their own consumption has been gradually dying out over the years and very few indeed are now so kept.

### STABLES.

There is one farm in the area used as stables for a riding school, and it is well managed and kept clean.

### POULTRY, ETC.

Several visits were made to houses, etc., about the keeping of poultry and pets but in no case was any nuisance found.

### SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.

### CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

Towards the end of 1957 the Council considered the implications of this Act and decided that the amount of pollution in this district was not sufficient to make the declaration of Clean Air Areas necessary.

In any case a practically insuperable difficulty is that a considerable number of the residents are miners who receive concessionary coal as part of their remuneration and the cost of buying smokeless fuel would be considerably higher than the amount paid in lieu of the coal. This hardship is one which I believe should be settled at national level.

Whilst it is desirable that every district should be free from atmospheric pollution I feel that much better and steady progress would have been made had the Act required Local Authorities to take action at a rate related

to their size and population. That is that each authority be required to make one tenth to one twentyth of its area smokeless each year until all was complete. As it is, economic consideration will prevent many authorities from making any real attempt to carry out the intentions of the Act, and I fear that in 20 years time we shall have as much pollution as at present.

#### RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951.

There are no registered premises within the Urban District at which upholstering or stuffing of flock filled articles is carried on.

#### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

There are no premises within the Urban District registered as a pet shop for the sale of pet animals.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

The district is remarkably free from infestation of rats and mice. The complaints received are in nearly every case only of one rat and small infestations of mice.

Annual test baiting of about 10% of the sewerman-holes was carried out, and in only three manholes was evidence of rats found. These were treated and shortly after a follow-up treatment was carried out, with good results.

Private houses are treated at the request of the occupier free of charge whilst business premises are treated for the actual cost of the treatment.

Nearly all the agricultural holdings on the district are treated by the County Agricultural Committee's rodent control department.

The total number of premises treated was 109, three more than in 1956. This shows that the rodent population is not increasing whilst the residents are making full use of the services provided.

One man is employed part time on rodent control work, and I wish to record my appreciation of the way he carries out the work with a minimum of supervision and in a very thorough and conscientious manner.



The table below is in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.				Total.
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses.	Agricul- ural.	All Other.	
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District .....	18	6,526	66	198	6,808
Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1956 as a result of :—					
(a) notification .....		61	.....	9	70
(b) survey or otherwise .....	9	7	.....	4	20
(c) otherwise .....	6	13	.....	.....	19
Number of properties inspected which were found to be (Major) .....					
infested by rats (Minor) .....	13	27	.....	4	44
Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice...					
	2	54	.....	9	65
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority					
	15	81	.....	13	109
Number of Notices served under Section 4. ....					
Legal Proceedings .....					
Number of "Block" control schemes carried out .....					

**FACTORY ACT, 1937.**

118 Visits were made to premises registered as factories in the district.

**PART I OF THE ACT.**

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

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(1) INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>In- spections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities .....	2	8	....	....
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Auth. ....	35	91	....	....
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority .....	8	14	....	....
(excluding out-workers' premises).				
Total	45	113	....	....

**(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.**

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred</i>		<i>Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted</i>
			<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>by H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of Cleanliness .....	....	....	....	....	....
Overcrowding .....	....	....	....	....	....
Unreasonable temperature .....	....	....	....	....	....
Inadequate ventilation .....	....	....	....	....	....
Ineffective drainage of floors .....	....	....	....	....	....
<b>SANITARY CONVENIENCES</b>					
(a) insufficient .....	3	3	....	....	....
(b) unsuitable or defective .....	....	....	....	....	....
(c) Not separate for the sexes .....	....	....	....	....	....
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) .....	....	....	....	....	....
Total	3	3	....	....	....

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year, 5 visits were made in connection with the investigation and control of contagious disease, and arrangements made for the disinfection of the houses and bedding either on removal of the patient to hospital or on recovery.

### SHOPS ACT, 1950—SECTIONS 38 and 72.

A total of 288 visits were made to shops in the district, not all of which come within the provisions of the sections.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

There are 124 premises in the district in which food is prepared, stored, or sold. The standard of most of these premises is slightly better than the required standard. They are roughly classified as follows, but certain businesses deal in one or more main lines.

Bakers .....	9	Fresh Fish .....	3
Butchers .....	11	Fish Fryers .....	6
Cafes .....	3	Grocers .....	47
Canteen & Kitchen .....	3	Greengrocers .....	10
Chemists .....	5	Sweets .....	11
Licensed Premises .....		16	

Forty-five premises are registered under the Food & Drugs Act as follows :—

Bakers .....	6	Butchers .....	10
Fishfryers .....	6	Ice-Cream .....	23

in addition, 34 premises mostly small general dealers are registered as distributors of milk, but no premises are registered as dairies.

During the year, 193 visits have been made to the above mentioned registered premises, the majority of inspections being confined to butchers and bakers establishments.

Opportunity is taken whenever possible to advise and instruct food handlers of the importance of personal hygiene, and in the proper protection and handling of foodstuffs when visits are made to food premises. The fact that nearly all of the traders depend upon local trade and are therefore anxious to keep their customers

means that they do not take risks which a shop depending only on passing trade often does.

Condemned meat and meat foods are normally burnt in the Council's incinerator to which it is carried in a Council lorry. Other foods such as tinned fruits, milk, etc., are buried on the Council's controlled tip.

It was not necessary to examine any large stocks or consignments of food during the year.

There are no Ice-Cream manufacturers in the district.

#### FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

Matters which I think should be considered in any revision of these regulations are :—

1. That all persons handling food should be provided with and required to wear white washable overalls and head coverings by the employer.
2. The use of newsprint, etc., should be entirely prohibited in food businesses.
3. Lavatory basins should be of the fixed type with hot and cold water and provided in the room in which the food handling takes place. (words conveniently accessible would thus be avoided).
4. Sinks too should be provided in the room where food or apparatus is to be washed.
5. In Regulations 25 the words unless exposed for sale should be omitted.
6. The supply of hot and cold water, sinks and lavatory basins on all stalls, vans, etc., transporting or dealing in foodstuffs whether for immediate consumption or not or for wholesale purposes should be compulsory.
7. The wholesale and retail transport of meat should be only permitted in properly designed vehicles.

I hope that the revision of these regulations will take place soon, and in order that a continuous process of improvement can take place, in keeping with modern principles.



During the year, six fixed wash hand basins, and one sink with hot and cold water supplies had been installed, and at one establishment the counters and benches were covered with non-absorbent materials.

### **SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1954.**

There is only one slaughterhouse in use in the district. It is owned by Boldon Co-operative Society Limited and came into operation in October, 1954. The Council have licensed it to operate until July, 1959, as permitted under the Act.

The owners agreed to allow any other butcher in the district to have full use of the facilities provided should they require it.

Three butchers and one farmer in addition to the Society regularly use the premises as compared to eight who slaughtered pre-war.

The building provides lairage for cattle, sheep and pigs. a large slaughterhall, and additional hanging space could be provided if it should be required.

It is in my opinion large enough to cater adequately for the slaughtering needs of the district.

Owing to the difficulty in securing at proper intervals the removal of refuse and manure, the Council had decided to adopt the model byelaws for slaughterhouses and approval to this course was received from the Minister in late December, 1957.

At the same time I hope that the slaughterhouse regulations which the Minister proposed will be brought into operation as quickly as possible in order to cover gaps in the control of such establishments.

### **MEAT INSPECTION.**

The inspection of animals slaughtered at the above mentioned slaughterhouse for human consumption is regularly carried out.

Regular slaughtering takes place of four days of each week, but in addition, animals are slaughtered on other



days, and it is here that difficulty is encountered. The notice of slaughter required to be given under the act is so short, three hours, that a person can notify the office after I leave, slaughter the animals and wish to remove it before I know anything of the matter. In common with many of my colleagues I think that this should be altered.

The butchers on the other hand do try to give as much notice as possible, and do not remove any meat until it has been inspected.

During the year, 3,079 carcasses were inspected and about 2,074 pounds of edible organs and flesh were condemned and destroyed in the Council's incinerator.

The following table is in the form recommended :—

# MEAT INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses	Total
Number killed .....	734	14	6	2,018	307	—	3,079
Number inspected .....	734	14	6	2,018	307	—	3,079
ALL DISEASES—							
Carcases condemned .....	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Parts or Organs condemned .....	228	2	2	—	—	—	232
Percentage .....	31.2%	14.2%	33.33%	—	0.32%	—	7.59%
Tuberculosis carcasses condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parts or Organs condemned .....	26	5	—	—	1	—	32
Percentage .....	3.54%	35.7%	—	—	0.32%	—	1.03%
CYSTS—							
Part carcasses or organs condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses refrigerated .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Amongst the conditions encountered were the following, Actinomycosis, Abscesses, Bruising, Pleurisy, Pericorditis, Peritonitis, Liver Flukes, Strongyli, Tuberculosis, Fever and Cirrhosis.

It is pleasing to note that Tuberculosis is no longer the principle cause of condemnation, the reduction in its incidence being specially noticeable in pigs. On the other hand about 1,200 lbs. of Ox Liver were condemned representing a loss to trade of about £200. We are fortunate that no cases of *Cysticercus* *Boris* were discovered.

No difficulty is encountered in securing the surrender and destruction of foodstuffs which are unfit for human consumption. Most of the tradesmen seek my advice on any food which is doubtful and willingly surrender any which is unfit. All the businesses are retail and it has not been necessary to examine any very large stocks of food.

The following foodstuffs were surrendered and destroyed :—

11	Tins of	Chopped Pork.
10	„	Luncheon Meat.
16	„	Salmon.
79	„	Evaporated Milk.
4	„	Tongue.
4	„	Stewed Steak.
2	„	Steak Meat.
36	„	Peas.
13	„	Oranges.
13	„	Pineapples.
3	„	Loganberries.
82	„	Cooked Ham.
13	„	Cooked Pork Shoulder.
10	„	Corned Beef.
9	„	Fruit Salad.
2	„	Chicken.
8	„	Beans in Tomato.
54	„	Tomato.
3	„	Crab Meat.
3	„	Danish Pork.
3	„	Plums.
2	„	Chicken Fillets.
1	„	Corned Mutton.

1	„	Apricots.
13	„	Pears.
1	„	Minced Beef Loaf.
1	„	Peaches.
7	„	Cherries.
2	„	Golden Syrup.
2	„	Meat Paste.
2	„	Full Cream Milk.
1	„	Steak and Kidney Pudding.
1	„	Prunes.
68 lbs. of		Cheshire Cheese.
14	„	Gammon Ham.
38	„	Sausage.
18	„	Bacon.
7	„	Ground Rice.
6½	„	Margarine.
7	„	Jellied Veal.
11 Pkts. of		Beef Suet.
10	„	Cheese Spread.
19	„	Cake Mixture.
16	„	Custard Powder.
3 Jars of		Pickled Onions.
12		Pork Pies.
8		Swiss Rolls.
3		Sandwich Cakes.
2		Madeira Cakes.
38		Fish Cakes.

### ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

Durham County Council are the responsible authority for the administration of those sections of the Food & Drugs Acts which deal with adulteration and abstraction of substances from food, and they regularly take samples for analysis by the Public Analyst.

During 1957, 46 samples were taken of which 43 were of milk. No proceedings were taken.

### PETROLEUM ACTS.

Sixteen Visits were made during the year in connection with petroleum storage. Five new premises were licensed and there are now thirty licensed premises.

Proceedings were taken by the Council against the Esso Petroleum Company for allowing petrol to be transported in a vehicle which did not comply with the 1957 Regulations.